

# Green Mountain Book Award

## Handbook

**2012-2013**



**Compiled by  
the Green Mountain Book Award Committee**

State of Vermont  
Department of Libraries  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-0601  
<http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/gmba>

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# INTRODUCTION

## **What is the Green Mountain Book Award?**

The Green Mountain Book Award is the student-selected award for Vermonters in grades 9-12. In 2005 it joined the other two Vermont child-selected book awards, the Red Clover Award, a picture book award for children in Kindergarten-grade 4, and the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, a book award for students in grades 4-8.

## **How did the award start?**

Librarians had been talking about the possibility of such an award for several years, but it was Marsha Middleton, then the librarian at North Country Union High School in Newport, Vermont and Sybil McShane, then the Vermont State Librarian, who made it a reality. Marsha had both the desire to start a young adult award and the knowledge of high school kids and their reading, and Sybil had a strong interest in having the Department of Libraries better serve the teenagers of Vermont. Both librarians are passionate about young adult literature and bringing the best to kids, so it was a natural partnership.

The Department of Libraries agreed to fund a pilot project, and a group of excited volunteers formed a committee in 2004. The Vermont Educational Media Association (now the Vermont School Library Association) contributed funding, and CAYAL, the Children's and Young Adult section of the Vermont Library Association, pledged support and recruited volunteers. Since then we have established criteria, written bylaws, conducted a logo contest and created materials. Now well-established throughout the state, the program is an important part of Vermont's literary landscape.

This year's committee consisted of: Erikka Adams, Librarian, Lake Region Union High School, Orleans; Marilee Attley, Librarian, Brattleboro Union High School; Doriene Cedeno, Teacher, People's Academy, Morrisville; Rebecca Cook, Library Director, Poultney Public Library; Toni Eubanks, Library Director, Glover Public Library and Barton Public Library; Maria Harris, Director, Enosburgh Public Library; Jessica Langlois; Kat Redniss, Library Assistant - Young Adult and Youth Services, Brownell Library, Essex Junction; Sarah Sturm, student, Essex High School; Matthew Swinson; Margaret Woodruff, Director, Charlotte Public Library; and Grace Greene, Youth Services Consultant, Department of Libraries, Liaison to Committee.

## **Mission statement**

The goal of the award is to select a list of books of good literary quality that:

- Engages high school students.
- Represents a variety of genres, formats and viewpoints.
- May include books written both for young people and adults.
- Reflects the interests of high school students.

## **Criteria for choosing books**

To be eligible for the Green Mountain Book Award list, a book must:

- Be available in paperback
- Have been published in the last 5 years (2007-2011 for the 2012-2013 list)
- Have received two favorable reviews in professionally recognized review sources (if possible)

In addition, there may be only one book by an author on any given list.

## **Timetable**

Voting for the winner of the Green Mountain Book Award is held at the beginning of May. The committee recommends that in order to be eligible to vote, a student should read at least three books on the masterlist. The new list is available in March, and is made available to all school and public libraries at that time.

## **Book Sets**

The Department of Libraries has multiple copies of each book on the masterlist, and will send them out on interlibrary loan. Please contact Linda Willis-Pendo at [linda.willis-pendo@state.vt.us](mailto:linda.willis-pendo@state.vt.us).

## **Materials available**

There are bookmarks that list the nominees for the 2012-2013 award, spine labels and posters. If you would like any of these items, please call or email Grace Greene at the Department of Libraries: 828-6954; email: [grace.greene@state.vt.us](mailto:grace.greene@state.vt.us)

## **Website**

There is not a separate website for the Green Mountain Book Award, but materials are on the Department of Libraries website: <http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/gmba>.

## **Winners of the Green Mountain Book Award**

2012 - Patrick Ness. *The Knife of Never Letting Go*. Candlewick, 2008.

2011 - Kristin Cashore. *Graceling*. Harcourt, 2008.

2010 - Neal Shusterman. *Unwind*. S & S, 2007.

2009 - Ellen Hopkins. *Crank*. SimonPulse, 2004.

2008 - John Green. *Looking for Alaska*. Dutton, 2005.

2007 - Jodi Picoult. *My Sister's Keeper*. S & S, 2004.

2006 - Angela Johnson. *The First Part Last*. S & S, 2003.

## Green Mountain Book Award Master List 2012-2013

This is the eighth year of the Green Mountain Book Award, a reader's choice award for students in grades 9-12. Co-sponsored by the Vermont Department of Libraries and the Vermont School Library Association, this program is designed to introduce to high school students some excellent books for their pleasure reading.

These books, to be read during the 2012-2013 school year, comprise the master list for the award to be made in 2013. Voting forms will be made available to all Vermont schools and public libraries in the spring so that young adults can vote for their favorite book. The master list titles have been selected to satisfy the reading interests of teens in grades 9-12, and include both adult and young adult books. All books on the list were first published in 2007-2011 and are available in paperback.

Bacigalupi, Paolo. ***Ship Breaker***. Little, Brown, 2011. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-3160-5619-9 (pap.); Little, Brown, 2010. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-3160-5621-2.

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

Donnelly, Jennifer. ***Revolution***. Ember, 2011. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-3757-3764-7 (pap.); Delacorte, 2010. \$18.99. ISBN 978-0-3857-3763-0.

An angry, grieving seventeen-year-old musician facing expulsion from her prestigious Brooklyn private school travels to Paris to complete a school assignment and uncovers a diary written during the French Revolution by a young actress attempting to help a tortured, imprisoned little boy--Louis Charles, the lost king of France.

Donoghue, Emma. ***Room***. Back Bay, 2011. \$14.99. ISBN 978-0-3160-9832-8 (pap.); Little, Brown, 2010. \$24.99. ISBN 978-0-3160-9833-5.

Room is home to Jack, but to his mother it's the prison where she has been held for seven years. Through her fierce love for her son she has created a life for him in this eleven-by-eleven-foot space, but with Jack's curiosity building alongside her own desperation, she knows that Room cannot contain them much longer.

Fisher, Catherine. ***Incarceron***. Firebird, 2011. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-1424-1852-9 (pap.); Dial, 2010. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-8037-3396-1.

To free herself from an upcoming arranged marriage, Claudia, the daughter of the Warden of Incarceron, a futuristic prison with a mind of its own, decides to help a young prisoner escape.

Gray, Keith. ***Ostrich Boys***. Random, 2011. \$8.99. ISBN 978-0-3758-5844-4 (pap.); Random, 2010. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-3758-5843-7.

After their best friend Ross dies, English teenagers Blake, Kenny, and Sim plan a proper memorial by taking his ashes to Ross, Scotland, an adventure-filled journey that tests their loyalty to each other and forces them to question what friendship means.

- Johnson, Maureen. *Suite Scarlett*. Point, 2009. \$8.99. ISBN 978-0-5450-9632-4 (pap.); Point, 2008. \$16.99. ISBN 978-0-4398-9927-7.  
Fifteen-year-old Scarlett Marvin is stuck in New York City for the summer working at her quirky family's historic hotel, but her out-of-work actor brother's attractive new friend and a seasonal guest who offers her an intriguing and challenging writing project improve her outlook.
- Katcher, Brian. *Almost Perfect*. Delacorte, 2010. \$8.99. ISBN 978-0-3857-3665-7 (pap.); Delacorte, 2009. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-3857-3664-0.  
With his mother working long hours and in pain from a romantic break-up, eighteen-year-old Logan feels alone and unloved until a strange new student arrives at his small-town Missouri high school, keeping a big secret.
- Matson, Morgan. *Amy & Roger's Epic Detour*. S & S, 2011. \$9.99. ISBN 978-1-4169-9066-6 (pap.); S & S, 2010. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-3758-5843-7.  
After the death of her father, Amy, a high school student, and Roger, a college freshman, set out on a carefully planned road trip from California to Connecticut, but wind up taking many detours, forcing Amy to face her worst fears and come to terms with her grief and guilt.
- North, Ryan, et al. *Machine of Death: A Collection of Stories About People Who Know How They Will Die*. Bearstache Books, 2010. \$17.95. ISBN 978-0-9821-6712-0 (pap.).  
Thirty-four different stories about people who know how, but not when, they will die. Even when people do have knowledge of the future, things can turn out very differently from what they expect.
- Perkins, Stephanie. *Anna and the French Kiss*. Speak, 2011. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-1424-1940-3 (pap.); Dutton, 2010. \$16.99. ISBN 978-0-5254-2327-0.  
When Anna's romance-novelist father sends her to an elite American boarding school in Paris for her senior year of high school, she reluctantly goes, and meets an amazing boy who becomes her best friend, in spite of the fact that they both want something more.
- Pierson, D.C. *The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To*. Vintage, 2010. \$14.95. ISBN 978-0-3074-7461-2 (pap.).  
Fifteen-year-old Darren, a social misfit who spends his time at school trying not to be noticed while drawing characters for a planned film series and book tie-ins, befriends Eric, another outcast who reveals that he never sleeps.
- Priest, Cherie. *Boneshaker*. Tor, 2009. \$15.99. ISBN 978-0-7653-1841-1 (pap.).  
Inventor Leviticus Blue creates a machine that accidentally decimates Seattle's banking district and uncovers a vein of Blight Gas that turns everyone who breathes it into the living dead. Sixteen years later Briar, Blue's widow, lives in the poor neighborhood outside the wall that's been built around the uninhabitable city. Life is tough with a ruined reputation, but she and her teenage son Ezekiel are surviving--until Zeke impetuously decides that he must reclaim his father's name from the clutches of history.

Roth, Veronica. ***Divergent***. Katherine Tegen, 2012. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-0620-2403-9 (pap.); Katherine Tegen, 2011. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-0620-2402-2.

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

TenNapel, Doug. ***Ghostopolis***. Graphix, 2010. \$12.99. ISBN 978-0-5452-1028-7 (pap.).

When he is accidentally transported to the spirit world by a washed-out ghost wrangler, Garth Hale discovers that the world's evil ruler wants his unique powers, so he teams up with some unlikely allies to find a way home.

Yovanoff, Brenna. ***The Replacement***. Razorbill, 2011. \$8.99. ISBN 978-1-5951-4381-5 (pap.). Razorbill, 2010. \$17.99. ISBN 978-1-5951-4337-2.

Sixteen-year-old Mackie Doyle knows that he replaced a human child when he was just an infant, and when a friend's sister disappears he goes against his family's and town's deliberate denial of the problem to confront the beings that dwell under the town, tampering with human lives.

## How to Apply for the Committee

The Green Mountain Book Award Committee consists of 10 volunteers and the Youth Services Consultant from the Vermont Department of Libraries. Committee members serve for three years, with an option of a second term. When there is an opening we advertise it through listservs and newsletters. We look for people who work with high school students and are passionate about books. School librarians, public librarians, teachers and community members are all urged to apply.

If you are interested in applying, please send a letter of interest, a resume and two reviews, one positive and one negative of any books of your choice to:

Grace Greene  
Youth Services Consultant  
Vermont Dept. of Libraries  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
[grace.greene@state.vt.us](mailto:grace.greene@state.vt.us)

## Guidelines for writing reviews

1. Book reviews should be between 200 and 1,000 words in length.
2. Each review should include a brief descriptive summary and an assessment of appeal to high school students.
3. Reviews should touch on the quality of the following features:

### **For Nonfiction:**

- Authority and responsibility of the author
- Organization
- Writing style
- Illustrations
- Design
- Documentation of sources

### **For Poetry:**

- Sound (rhyme, meter)
- Imagery
- Ideas

### **For Fiction:**

- Plot
- Integration of background material
- Pacing
- Mood
- Characterization
- Point of view
- Setting
- Writing style
- Theme

## Book Suggestion for the Green Mountain Book Award

Snail mail or email by October 1, 2012 to:

Grace Greene  
Youth Services Consultant  
Vermont Department of Libraries  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
[grace.greene@state.vt.us](mailto:grace.greene@state.vt.us)

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (if a student) \_\_\_\_\_

School or library \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher and date of publication \_\_\_\_\_

*To be eligible for consideration by the Green Mountain Book Award Committee for the 2013-2014 Masterlist, the book must have been first published in 2008-2012, and must be of interest to students in grades 9-12. Both adult and young adult books are eligible, and the authors can be of any nationality. The only other stipulation is that the book MUST currently be available in paperback in the US.*

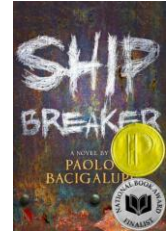
\*\*\*\*\*

Do not include plot summaries, but please tell the committee why you think this book belongs on the GMBA list. Use as much space as you need.

**This book should be on the list because:**

# SHIP BREAKER

by Paolo Bacigalupi



**Genre:** Dystopian, Science Fiction

**Themes:** Character, Environmentalism, Socio-economics, Family

**Author information:** Paolo Bacigalupi's science fiction has won him many honors. He is a Hugo and Nebula Award Winner, a National Book Award Finalist, and a Michael Printz Award winner. He lives in western Colorado with his wife and son, where he is working on a new novel.

**Book summary:** Along America's Gulf Coast, grounded oil tankers are being broken down for parts by crews of young people. Nailer, a teenage boy, works the light crew, scavenging for copper wiring just to make quota and live to see another day. But when he discovers a clipper ship beached during a recent hurricane, he faces the most important decision of his life: strip the ship for all it's worth or rescue its lone survivor, a beautiful and wealthy girl who could lead him to a better life.

**Booktalk:** This may be your one chance to get out of the hell that masquerades as your life. After brutal hours spent scavenging from the oil tankers scuttled on the beach, you stumble upon a capsized yacht. Why, the silverware alone could buy your way out, let alone the crystal chandeliers, and gold-plated dinnerware. Then you see the gold rings on the dead girl. Only, when you go to take them off, you find out she's not really dead.

## Curriculum tie-ins:

### *Environmental Science*

Explore the actual impact of global warming and rising tides. What might a post-oil world look like in terms of energy availability and consumption?

### *Social Studies*

Investigate the lives of "Untouchables" and other members of the lowest castes of developing countries. How does Nailer's life compare?

### *Art*

Draw or paint the future Bacigalupi portrays in *Ship Breaker*.

## Discussion questions:

- Nailer often has to make difficult choices between his family and others. Do you agree with his choices?
- Author Bacigalupi has said that *Ship Breaker* describes our "accidental future, the kind you get when there's a lack of forethought, a surfeit of poor planning, or just plain cynicism." In the book, what are some results of this accidental future? How do they compare with our current world?

**If you loved this, you'll like:**

Aguirre, Anne. *Enclave*. Fiewel & Friends, 2011.  
Klass, David. *Firestorm*. FSG, 2006.  
Mullin, Mike. *Ashfall*. Tanglewood, 2011.  
Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life As We Knew It*. Harcourt, 2006.  
Roth, Veronica. *Divergent*. Katherine Tegen, 2011. (on this year's GMBA list)

**Other books by the author:**

*Pump Six and Other Stories*. Night Shade, 2010.  
*Windup Girl*. Night Shade, 2010.  
*The Alchemist*. Subterranean, 2011.  
*The Drowned Cities*. Little, Brown, 2012. (Companion to *Ship Breaker*)

**Additional resources:**

Author interview: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQp\\_BDHH6s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQp_BDHH6s)

Information on one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history:  
[http://www.eoearth.org/article/Exxon\\_Valdez\\_oil\\_spill](http://www.eoearth.org/article/Exxon_Valdez_oil_spill)

# REVOLUTION

## by Jennifer Donnelly



**Genre:** Historical Fiction

**Themes:** History, time travel, France, grief, music, family relationships, love

**Author information:** Jennifer Donnelly is the author of three adult novels and a children's book, as well as the young adult novel *A Northern Light*, a previous GMBA nominee. She lives in upstate New York with her husband, daughter, and rescued greyhound.

**Plot summary:** Andi Alpers is on the edge. She's angry at her father for leaving, angry at her mother for not being able to cope, and angry at the world for taking her younger brother, Truman. Rage and grief are destroying her. And her father has determined that Andi's accompanying him to Paris over winter break is the solution to everything.

But Paris is a city of ghosts for Andi. And when she finds a centuries-old diary, the ghosts begin to walk off the page. Alexandrine, the owner of the journal, knew heartbreak also, and Andi finds comfort in the girl's words. Until, on a midnight journey through the catacombs of Paris, words transcend paper and time, and the past becomes suddenly, terrifyingly present.

**Booktalk:** Andi Alpers is all bad attitude, sharp edges and lots of meds. Completely broken by her brother's death two years prior, Andi's grades are failing and she may be kicked out of her prestigious New York private school. Andi's world-renowned geneticist father ditched her and her mother for another life and Andi resents him for it. When dad learns that Andi is close to being expelled, he drags her to Paris, where he's trying to prove whether or not a preserved heart belongs to Louis-Charles, son of Marie Antoinette. This is her last chance to finish her senior thesis, a requirement for graduation. She's REALLY into music and her thesis involves a famous Parisian musician. While not slaving over her project or hanging out with a handsome Parisian musician, she pores over a secret diary she discovered—a diary written by Louis-Charles' companion. Will Andi discover the truth behind the preserved heart and the tale of Louis-Charles? Will she find a way to mend her own heart?

Donnelly can take you anywhere with her writing. Here you'll find a ticket to Paris, a place where music reverberates underneath the city in dark catacombs and where secret diaries lure you back through time.

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *Music/Literature*

Find the playlist for *Revolution* at [http://www.jenniferdonnelly.com/rev\\_songs.html](http://www.jenniferdonnelly.com/rev_songs.html). Develop a playlist for another book you've read, even one without specific music mentioned, and explain why you chose the music you did.

#### *History*

Find the truth behind the story. How much of Andi's experience in the past was realistic?

Research what aspects of the French Revolution are realistically portrayed in the book, including the story of Louis-Charles. Can you find differing historical viewpoints of what really happened in the 1780s and 1790s, based on the writers' perspectives?

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Andi has a special relationship with Nathan Goldfarb, the head of the music department at St. Anselm. How does Nathan understand Andi's grief in ways others cannot?
- What is the significance of the key that Truman found? Why is Andi's dad so surprised that Truman had taken the key back?
- Why does the portrait of Louis-Charles remind Andi of Truman? The heart of 10-year-old Louis-Charles was stolen and smuggled out of prison. Describe Truman's metaphorical prison. How was Truman's heart stolen long before his death?
- What do you think Virgil meant at the end of the novel when he says, "Life's all about the revolution, isn't it? The one inside, I mean?" What does he mean by the revolution *inside*?
- Which literary or musical references did you recognize or understand throughout the book? How do you think they affected the story?

### **If you loved this, you'll like:**

Bennett Wealer, Sara. *Rival*. HarperTeen, 2011.

Gardner, Sally. *The Red Necklace*. Dial, 2008.

King, A.S. *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*. Knopf, 2010.

Matson, Morgan. *Amy & Roger's Epic Detour*. S & S, 2011. (on this year's GMBA list)

Oliver, Lauren. *Before I Fall*. HarperCollins, 2011.

### **Other books by this author:**

*A Northern Light*. Graphia, 2004.

*The Tea Rose*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2007.

*The Winter Rose*. Hyperion, 2008.

*The Wild Rose*. Hyperion, 2011.

### **Additional resources:**

<http://www.jenniferdonnelly.com/index.html>

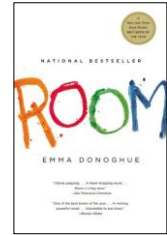
The author talks about the inspiration for the book:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qJPFmmrBs>

[www.musictherapy.org](http://www.musictherapy.org)

# ROOM

by Emma Donoghue



**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Themes:** Isolation, family, sexual abuse, perseverance, healing, media, child development, parenting, understanding differences

**Author information:** Emma Donoghue was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1969. She is the youngest of eight children. She studied English and French for her undergraduate degree from University College Dublin, and received her PhD, focusing on the concept of friendship between men and women in 18<sup>th</sup> century English fiction, from the University of Cambridge. She has been a professional writer since the age of 23. She now lives in London, Ontario with her partner Chris, and her two children, Finn and Una.

**Plot summary:** Five-year-old Jack has lived in Room with Ma for all his life. Room is a cozy, safe place for Jack. He is friends with furniture, reads and plays with the same books and toys, eats the same food, day in and day out. Jack is happy, because Ma has protected him from the harsh reality of their isolated lives. For Ma, Room is a nightmare, an awful, dirty, hurtful place. She is trapped, held captive by Old Nick, a monstrous man who controls nearly every aspect of her life. This gripping novel tells a story of incredible diligence and perseverance in the face of the most despicable odds.

**Booktalk:** Happy birthday to me, happy birthday to me, happy birthday dear Jack, happy birthday to me. Today is my birthday and all my friends are here, Ma, and Dora, and Chair, and Bed, and Rug, and all the rest. Today I am five... This is Jack, a happy, bright kid with a wild imagination and a great mom. Tonight, after Jack celebrates his birthday, mean Old Nick will come to visit, but Jack will hide away in Wardrobe. Ma will try to make Old Nick happy so they get something good for Sunday Treat. And Jack will hide, all cozy in Wardrobe and count how many times Old Nick makes Bed creak. One, two, three, four, five... Today, Jack is five. And he has never been outside of Room.

## Curriculum tie-ins:

### *Sociology*

Explore and research actual cases of people being held captive (e.g. Elizabeth Smart). Did these people escape their captors? If so, what was the process like when they reentered society? What happened to their captors?

### *English*

The novel is written from Jack's perspective. Take a scene from the book and rewrite it from another character's perspective (Ma, Old Nick, a Nurse, Ma's family). How does the story differ?

Inanimate objects are very important in this story. Jack considers many of the objects in Room his friends. Create a character sketch for one of the inanimate objects. What is it like, what personality traits does it possess? What does it think of what's going on inside

Room?

*Science/Health*

Examine how living in Room would affect someone's health. Look at Jack and Ma's hygiene, fitness, nutrition, and mental health. What affects, both physical and mental, could this lifestyle have on Jack and Ma?

*Media Literacy*

Create a PSA geared towards children or young adults informing them of strategies to stay safe from predators.

**Discussion Questions:**

- Why do you think the author chose to have Jack narrate the book? How does it change how we hear the story? How would the book be different if it was told from Ma's perspective?
- What would Ma's life be like if she had never given birth to Jack? Do you think his birth empowered her or held her back?
- We know very little about Old Nick. What do you think his story is? Do you have theories about why he has chosen this life for himself?
- How do the characters handle the transition from Room to the outside world? Do you think their responses are realistic? How do others respond to them? Why?
- How do you feel about Ma's parenting decisions? How do other characters in the book respond to her choices?

**If you loved this, you'll like:**

Foer, Jonathan Safran. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. HMH, 2005.  
Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. Doubleday, 2003.  
Merullo, Roland. *The Talk-Funny Girl*. Crown, 2011.  
Riggs, Ransom. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. Quirk Books, 2011.  
Scott, Elizabeth. *Living Dead Girl*. Simon Pulse, 2008.  
Sebold, Alice. *The Lovely Bones*. Little Brown, 2002.

**Other books by this author:**

*Stir-fry*. HarperCollins, 1994.  
*Hood*. HarperCollins, 1997.  
*Kissing The Witch*. Joanna Cotler Books, 1997.  
*Slammerkin*. Harcourt, 2000.  
*The Woman Who Gave Birth To Rabbits*. Harcourt, 2002.  
*Life Mask*. Harcourt, 2004.  
*Touchy Subjects*. Harcourt, 2006.  
*Landing*. Harcourt, 2007.  
*The Sealed Letter*. HMH, 2008.

**Additional resources:**

This amazing, interactive website, talks to you in Jack's voice, let's you explore a 3-D crayon drawing of Room, gives you Donoghue's rationale and research, provides a Reader's Guide, and tons more: <http://www.roomthebook.com/>

Author's Website: <http://www.emmadonoghue.com/>

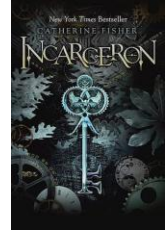
Author's Twitter Account: <http://twitter.com/#!/EDonoghueWriter>

Website for the National Center for Victims of Crime:  
[http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=dash\\_Home](http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=dash_Home)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Website:  
<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Default.aspx>

# INCARCERON

## by Catherine Fisher



**Genre:** Steampunk, science fiction, fantasy, dystopia

**Themes:** Adventure, escape, dystopia, human vs. machine, social “cleansing,” hero's journey, determining one's own destiny

**Author information:** Catherine Fisher is a Welsh author with an impressive list of publications. She began her writing career as a teacher, then moved on to poetry before settling into fantasy writing for young adults. One of her early novels, *The Snow-Walker's Son*, was shortlisted for the W.H.Smith Award. In 2003 her novel *The Oracle* was shortlisted for the Whitbread Children's Book Award. Another of her novels, *The Candleman*, won the Tir Na n'Og Prize, an award given by the Welsh Books Council. *Corbenic* was also shortlisted for this award. *Incarceron* won the Mythopoeic Society of America's Children's Fiction Award and was also selected as The Times Children's Book of the Year.

**Plot summary:** Finn is seventeen and a prisoner in Incarceron, a futuristic, terrifying place that holds all the world's criminals. It is a world so complete unto itself that nobody inside knows that an Outside exists. It began as a social experiment, but the criminals inside created a terrifying society of their own and the prison, unable to re-create elements of the natural world, has begun combining living beings with machines. The longer one remains inside, the more one becomes a part of the prison. Outside the prison lives Claudia, the Warden's daughter, who is also somewhat of a prisoner in a restricted society where she too must obey her father's orders and marry a man she doesn't love. Through a mysterious crystal key, Claudia and Finn are able to find and communicate with one another, thereby beginning to question the truths of their respective worlds.

**Booktalk:** Finn is seventeen years old and trapped in the nightmare of Incarceron, a prison so vast and sophisticated it holds, controls, and supervises all the world's criminals, permanently removed from society in a tremendous experiment gone awry. Instead of becoming an instrument of reformation, Incarceron has taken on a life of its own, slowly blurring the lines between nature and machine. The prisoners have no knowledge of anything Outside until Finn discovers a small key that allows him to communicate with one person from Outside, the Warden's daughter, who finds herself trapped in a prison of her own. The pawn in her father's game of power and appeasement, she is about to leave her own freedom and education for an unwelcome arranged marriage. Each is the other's only hope for escape, and escape will cost them considerably more than they anticipated.

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *Social Studies*

Explore different societies' approaches to prisons and rehabilitating criminals. Evaluate the plausibility of an idea like Incarceron.

### *English/Creative Writing*

Explore alternative worlds. Try to create one. As a writer, what does it take to make a world your audience can believe?

Experiment with writing different perspectives on the same story. Try keeping those characters close so that they experience similar things and then try pulling them apart, connecting with one another from a distance. How does this change a story and affect our understanding of a narrator (and his/her reliability)?

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Finn does not come across as a likeable or trustworthy character at the start of the book. Why would Fisher choose to present such a character so early on?
- Why do things inside Incarceron become more machine than human?
- At the start of each chapter, Fisher includes an excerpt from a fictional historic document. How does this affect the story?
- Think about the world that Claudia lives in and how different her options are from those of a young woman in today's society. How is Claudia in a prison of her own?
- Where is Incarceron?
- The purpose of Incarceron was to create a world that would both imprison and rehabilitate the world's criminals. Is such an idea advisable?

### **If you loved this, you'll like:**

Aguire, Ann. *Enclave*. Feiwel & Friends, 2011.  
Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker*. Little, Brown, 2010. (on this year's GMBA list)  
Dashner, James. *Maze Runner*. Delacorte, 2009.  
Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion*. Atheneum, 2002.  
Fisher, Catherine. *Sapphique*. Dial, 2010. (sequel to *Incarceron*)  
Ness, Patrick. *The Knife of Never Letting Go*. Candlewick, 2008.

### **Other books by this author:**

*The Oracle Prophecies Trilogy*  
    *The Oracle Betrayed*. Greenwillow, 2005.  
*Corbenic*. Greenwillow, 2006.  
*Darkhenge*. Greenwillow, 2006.  
*Sapphique*. Dial, 2010. (sequel to *Incarceron*)  
*Relic Master Series*  
    *The Dark City*. Dial, 2011.  
    *The Lost Heiress*. Dial, 2011.  
    *The Hidden Coronet*. Dial, 2011.  
    *The Margrave*. Dial, 2011.

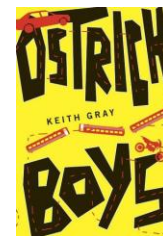
**Additional resources:**

<http://www.catherine-fisher.com/>

<http://www.incarceronseries.com/>

<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2011/05/19/readers-den-incarceron-discussion-questions>

## OSTRICH BOYS by Keith Gray



**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Themes:** Teen friendship, boys' friendship, relationships, teen suicide, grieving

**Author information:** It is ironic, perhaps, that a great storyteller like Keith Gray was a reluctant reader in childhood. He claims to have read nothing but comics until finding “the book” (in this case, *The Machine Gunners* by Robert Westall) that led him to reading and then to writing. His works have won numerous awards including the Angus Book Award, the South Lanarkshire Book Award, and a Smarties Silver Medal. He enjoys sharing his love of reading and writing with teens in and around his hometown of Edinburgh where he lives with his partner, Jasmine, and their parrot, Bellamy.

**Plot summary:** When Ross Fell is killed by a car while cycling home, his best friends vow to memorialize him properly. The reactionary graffiti after Ross' funeral doesn't allay their anger and sadness and so the three friends take to the road and rails to show the world how much their late friend means to them. At the same time, they also come to terms with the facts of Ross' death and the feelings they carry with them as survivors.

**Booktalk:** Three teen boys, two rucksacks, an unwieldy map, and an urn containing their best friend's ashes. These are the ingredients for *Ostrich Boys* which follows the adventures of Blake and his two buddies, Sim and Kenny, as they carry out a last memorial for Ross, the late member of their quartet who was killed in an accident with a car. While they make their somewhat madcap way from their hometown in the south of England to Ross, Scotland, the three not only share a crazy adventure, they also learn about the meaning of friendship, grief, and caring for one another. This is the book about suicide and survivors that everyone should read instead of *Thirteen Reasons Why*.

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *Current Events*

Bullying Around: Take a look at the following items about bullying. Compare this with information with bullying programs at your school and in your state. What suggestions can you offer for bullying prevention as a teen that teachers, administrators and other adults might have missed?

- Nicholas Kristof. “Born to Not Get Bullied,” *New York Times*, February 29, 2012. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/01/opinion/kristof-born-to-not-get-bullied.html>
- Richard Brody, “What to See This Weekend: 'Bully' and Moretti,” [www.newyorker.com](http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/movies/2012/03/what-to-see-this-weekend-bully-and-moretti.html), March 30, 2012. <http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/movies/2012/03/what-to-see-this-weekend-bully-and-moretti.html>
- [www.bornthiswayfoundation.org](http://www.bornthiswayfoundation.org): This Way, Towards Bravery, Where Youth Are Empowered. This Way, Towards Acceptance, Where Humanity is Embraced. This Way, Towards Love, Where Individuality is Encouraged.

### *Contemporary Literature*

Compare the reactions about death of friends in the books *Ostrich Boys* and *Wintergirls* by Laurie Halse Anderson. How do the different characters handle their grief? Does Lia's manner as a girl differ from Blake's as a boy? What feelings do they share?

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wintergirls>
- <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3954368-ostrich-boys>

### **Discussion questions:**

- Do any of the situations in *Ostrich Boys* seem familiar to you?
- How do you reach out for help?
- Do you know about the resources available in your community to deal with depression and bullying?
- What kind of road trip would you take to remember a friend? (Not necessarily one who died but who moved or who lost touch with you.)

### **If you loved this, you'll like:**

Anderson, Laurie. *Wintergirls*. Viking, 2009.  
Green, John. *Looking for Alaska*. Penguin, 2006.  
Hornby, Nick. *Slam*. Penguin, 2007.  
Ness, Patrick. *A Monster Calls*. Candlewick, 2011.

### **Other books by this author:**

*The Runner*. Transworld Publishers, 2005.  
*The Fearful*. Transworld Publishers, 2006.  
*Losing It*. Andersen Press, 2010.

### **Additional resources:**

Keith Gray: <http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/contacts/keith-gray>

Animal Group Names: <http://www.thealmightyguru.com/Pointless/AnimalGroups.html>

Bullying: Band Back Together: <http://www.bandbacktogether.com/teen-bullying-resources/>

Grieving: <http://www.dougy.org/grief-resources/help-for-teens/>

Train Travel in Britain: <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

## SUITE SCARLETT by Maureen Johnson



**Genre:** Humor, realistic life fiction, chick lit

**Themes:** New York City, family, siblings, theater, eccentric characters

**Author information:** Maureen Johnson (author of *13 Little Blue Envelopes*) was one of those kids who always loved to read and write. She attended an all-girl Catholic prep school and then went to college at the University of Delaware. For a short time, she lived in the U.K. while enrolled at the University of Bristol. (Lucky!!) While attending graduate school at Columbia University she worked at many different jobs to pay the high cost of her classes including at a haunted house themed restaurant. All of this and much, much more interesting information can be found on her truly fantastic blog: <http://www.maureenjohnsonbooks.com/blog>

**Plot summary:** Fifteen-year-old Scarlett assumes (wrongly) that her summer will be uneventful and mundane, while her friends all seem to be going on fabulous adventures to other parts of the country and world. Little does she know that she will be almost arrested, help rescue a theater group, and fall for her brother's new friend.

**Booktalk:** Think of living in the middle of New York City, in a stylish hotel, being surrounded by friends and with plenty of money to travel and shop. Well, Scarlett does live in the middle of NYC, in a "used to be" in vogue hotel, but it seems that only her friends have plenty of money to travel and shop. Her family-owned hotel is having some financial difficulties, so all of the kids (including her older, theater-major brother and model-perfect, older sister) have to pitch in to keep it running. She is assigned to cater to the mysterious, eccentric Mrs. Amberson who may just save the hotel for the summer with all of the money she flaunts around, if only Scarlett can keep her happy!

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *History*

The Algonquin Hotel is a historic hotel where Mrs. Amberson and Scarlett meet for lunch. Maureen Johnson filmed a video there for the release of *Suite Scarlett*. Research this legendary hotel's history. Find out who has stayed there, which magazine was started there and snoop out that famous Autograph Collection.

#### *Art*

The Hopewell Hotel is from the Art Deco era. Research what art deco is and find out where in the country there is a lot of art deco architecture. (Hint: If you have been to Miami Beach, you have seen art deco up close and personal.)

### Discussion Questions:

- Maureen Johnson is known for her witty, young adult books. In *Suite Scarlett* she has some funny quotes like: "Every time you try to flirt with her, a puppy dies." Can you find

any others?

- One reviewer said the best part of the book is the relationship between the siblings. That it “perfectly depicts the family dynamic.” What do you like about Scarlett’s relationships with Spencer and Lola? Will she ever be able to have the same closeness with her younger sister Marlene?
- Shakespeare, Shakespeare, Shakespeare!! Such a part of every teen’s life! Which play(s) have you read, which play(s) have you done? What did you think of the play(s)?
- Would you want to work for Mrs. Amberson? Did she change Scarlett’s outlook on life? Do you have any “Mrs. Amberson” type stories?
- Now that you have been transported to life in a hotel, would you want to live in one? Sometimes it is used as a compliment that a room looks like a luxurious hotel. What is it about a hotel room that you like?

**If you loved this, you'll like:**

Johnson, Maureen. *Scarlett Fever*. Point, 2010. (sequel to *Suite Scarlett*)

Matson, Morgan. *Amy and Roger’s Epic Detour*. S & S, 2010. (on this year’s GMBA list)

Perkins, Stephanie. *Anna and the French Kiss*. Dutton, 2010. (on this year’s GMBA list)

**Other books by this author:**

*13 Little Blue Envelopes*. HarperTeen, 2005.

*The Last Little Blue Envelope*. HarperTeen, 2011.

*The Name of the Star (Shades of London)*. Putnam, 2011.

**Additional resources:**

<http://www.maureenjohnsonbooks.com/blog>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/booktalk-suite-scarlett>

## ALMOST PERFECT by Brian Katcher



**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Themes:** Relationships, LGBT issues, economic diversity, high school social life

**Author information:** A school librarian in Missouri, Brian Katcher has worked at a variety of jobs including welding machine operator and fry cook. His extracurricular exploits include smuggling food into Cuba and living on an Israeli military base.

**Plot summary:** Logan Witherspoon starts his senior year of high school pining for his ex-girlfriend and perplexed about his place in the world. He lives with his mother in a trailer park on the outskirts of town, well aware of his low status in the pecking order of school social life and concerned about what the future brings. As if this isn't enough to keep him occupied, when he meets Sage Hendricks Logan's world becomes even more complicated. Dealing with his feelings for her and subsequent discovery that Sage is transgender affects every move that Logan makes through the last months of high school.

**Booktalk:** Shakespeare has nothing on Logan Witherspoon for drama. His obsession with his cheating (ex)girlfriend finally dims when Sage Hendricks appears in his science class. As the friendship between Logan and this new intriguing girl develops, it leads to more provocative questions and irresistible attraction on Logan's part. All this crashes to a halt when Logan follows his instinct and kisses this new girl...only to discover that she is a boy. How Logan deals with his conflicting feelings of attraction for and confusion about this girl in a boy's body contributes to a story that deals with larger issues of gender identity, social understanding and love in this realistic and compelling story.

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *Shakespeare In Love...On Its Head*

Cross dressing, gender identity and issues of sexuality, both implicit and explicit occur in much of his work from the portrayal of Antonio and Bassanio's relationship in "The Merchant of Venice" to the lesbian themed "Twelfth Night"; from Mercutio's love for Romeo to Ulysses and Pandarus in "Troilus and Cressida" and including the gender swapping "As You Like It" and the sexual confusion of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." (from [http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/history/images\\_shakespeare.html](http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/history/images_shakespeare.html))

Look at gender switching in Shakespeare's play *As You Like It* and the role of Rosalind. Rosalind takes on a man's appearance for safety. Do you think Sage's character mirrors Rosalind's in any way? If so, how? How is it different? Are there other instances of this in classic literature? In contemporary fiction?

#### *Current Events*

Read the following article about LGBT learning in high school:  
<http://www.casafeschools.org/FactSheet-curriculum.pdf>

How does your experience match that of social norms in the United States?  
If Sage Hendricks showed up at your high school, would she be welcomed for who she is?

Find three current instances or mentions of LGBT in the media. Sage Hendricks comes across as a real person and not just an example or statistic; how are the people portrayed in the news stories?

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What does the LGBT world look like at your school? Are self-identified LGBT students considered a separate group?
- Does the situation seem to match acceptance of other “groups” at school such as jocks, thespians, band geeks?
- Are the LGBT issues addressed at your school? Transgender specifically?
- Is economic status an issue at your school? Do people notice who's “poor” and who's not?
- Are there any attempts in school or through extracurricular activities to create a “level playing field” for all students, regardless of home life?

### **If you loved this, you'll like:**

Bray, Libba. *Beauty Queens*. Scholastic, 2011.  
Green, John. *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*. Penguin, 2010.  
Hartinger, Brent. *Geography Club*. HarperCollins, 2004.  
Stiefvater, Maggie. *Shiver*. Scholastic, 2009.

### **Other books by this author:**

*Playing with Matches*, Random House, 2008.

### **Additional resources:**

Brian Katcher Website: <http://briankatcher.com/site/>

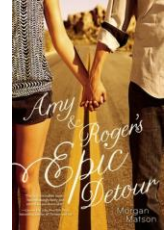
American Civil Liberties Union:  
<http://www.aclupa.org/issues/lgbtrights/lgbthighschoolstudents.html>

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: <http://www.thetaskforce.org/issues/transgender>

Born This Way Foundation: [www.bornthiswayfoundation.org](http://www.bornthiswayfoundation.org): This Way, Towards Bravery, Where Youth Are Empowered. This Way, Towards Acceptance, Where Humanity is Embraced. This Way, Towards Love, Where Individuality is Encouraged.

Spotlight on Poverty:  
<http://www.spotlightonpoverty.org/news.aspx?id=d7489aaa-8d79-4382-a6a6-fcecbcaa4ada>

## AMY & ROGER'S EPIC DETOUR by Morgan Matson



**Genre:** Realistic fiction

**Themes:** Grief, guilt, relationships, and road trips

**Author information:** Morgan Matson is new to the scene of Young Adult literature, with *Amy & Roger's Epic Detour* being her first work. She was named a Publishers Weekly Flying Start author, and *Amy & Roger's Epic Detour* was recognized as an ALA Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults in 2011.

**Plot summary:** After her mother decides to move what's left of their family across the country, Amy Curry's one responsibility is to get their car from California to Connecticut. There's just one problem. Amy hasn't driven since the day her father was killed in a car crash for which she feels responsible. Enter Roger, a family friend who has agreed to make the trip with Amy, who has ulterior motives of his own. After looking at Mrs. Curry's thoroughly detailed, yet extremely boring itinerary, Amy and Roger decide to take a small "detour." What ensues is a succession of wild adventures, each one crazier than the next as Amy and Roger make their way across America.

**Booktalk:** When Amy agreed to Roger's harebrained scheme to take an epic detour across America, she had no idea what she was getting herself into. Between bear lockers at Yosemite, ex-girl friends, honeymoon suites and topiary animals, their trip from California to Connecticut couldn't be more different from the one Amy's mother had planned for them. It went from a four day haul across the country, to a detour of epic proportions that would test them in more ways than they had expected.

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *Social Studies*

Have students create a map of their ideal "epic detour" road trip. Have them research where they would stay and which landmarks they would visit.

#### *Math*

Have students figure out the cost of their self-planned road trip, as well as how much time it would take. Have them include the cost of gas, food, lodging, and any attractions they have included. Have them pick the car they would drive, research the gas mileage, figure out where they would stay, and actually plan an epic road trip. OR Do this as a class, working together with one itinerary.

### Discussion questions:

- Since her father's accident, Amy hasn't driven. Why do you think she feels comfortable enough with Lucien to finally get back behind the wheel?

- Amy was fully aware that Charlie wasn't supposed to have visitors when she broke into his facility to see him. Do you find that this was a selfish move on her part, or was it the right thing to do? Why?
- Discuss what transformations Amy undergoes throughout the book. Which do you think is the most important?

**If you loved this, you'll like:**

Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. S & S, 1999.  
 Gray, Keith. *Ostrich Boys*. Random House, 2008. (on this year's GMBA list)  
 Green, John. *Paper Towns*. Dutton, 2008.  
 Levithan, David & Cohn, Rachel. *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*. Borzoi Books, 2006  
 Miracle, Lauren, E. Lockhart & Sarah Mlynowski. *How to Be Bad*. Harper, 2008.  
 Rapp, Adam. *Punkzilla*. Candlewick, 2009.

**Other books by this author:**

*Second Chance Summer*. S & S, 2012.

**Additional resources:**

A website that helps teens deal with guilt and grief: [www.thehealingplaceinfo.org](http://www.thehealingplaceinfo.org)

An online resource for teens who may be suffering from depression:  
[www.focusas.com/Depression.html](http://www.focusas.com/Depression.html)

**MACHINE OF DEATH: A COLLECTION OF STORIES  
ABOUT PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW THEY WILL DIE**  
**edited by Ryan North, Matthew Bennardo,  
& David Malki !**



**Genre:** Science Fiction

**Themes:** Life, Death, Ethics, Non-Conformity

**Author information:** The Machine of Death features thirty-four stories by Randall Munroe of the web comic  *XKCD* , Ben "Yahtzee" Croshaw of the web series  *Zero Punctuation* , video game journalist Tom Francis, Camille Alexa, former  *Oxford American Dictionary*  editor Erin McKean, David Malki ! of the web comic  *Wonder Mark* , Ryan North of the web comic  *Dinosaur Comics* , and many others.

**Plot summary:** The Machine of Death tells you how you are going to die. It is vague, it is concise and it can be terror inducing or freeing.  *The Machine of Death*  explores the idea of knowing how, though not when or with any specificity, you will die.

**Booktalk:** A machine spits out a piece of paper. On it is written "Flying Fish." This is how you will die. It might mean you will choke on a piece of flying fish, be crushed by a truck carrying flying fish, or knocked off a boat by a flying fish. It is 100% accurate. Now you have a choice. You can wait or you can try to defy the Machine of Death.

**Curriculum tie-ins:**

*Creative Writing*

Explore the idea of knowing how you will die and write your own Machine of Death story.

*Sociology*

Consider the effects of such a machine on society as a whole. How would aspects change or remain the same?

*Government and Politics*

What effect would such a machine have on our governmental systems? What kind of new departments would have to be developed?

*Ethics*

How ethical is the Machine? How would it affect hiring practices or insurance practices? Should it be mandatory or elective?

*Theatre*

Stories from the book can make great one act plays and give practice for scripting and acting.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Would you use the Machine?
- How would the machine affect life and society?
- If a machine like this were created, should it be legal? Why?
- Is knowing how you will die liberating or confining?

### **If you loved this, you'll like:**

Beach, Lou. *420 Characters*. HMH, 2011.

Comeau, Joey. *Overqualified*. ECW Press, 2009.

Wong, David. *John Dies at the End*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2010.

### **Other books by these authors:**

Croshaw, Yahtzee. *Mogworld*. Dark Horse Comics, 2010.

Munroe, Randall. *XKCD: Volume 0*. Breadpig, 2010.

North, Ryan. *The Best of Dinosaur Comics: 2003-2005 A.D.* Quack!Media, 2009.

### **Additional resources:**

Machine of Death: <http://machineofdeath.net/>

Machine of Death card games: <http://machineofdeath.net/about/games>

Predictions by Mail: <http://machineofdeath.net/cool-stuff#cards>

# ANNA AND THE FRENCH KISS

## by Stephanie Perkins



**Genre:** Contemporary realistic fiction

**Themes:** Boarding school, romance, France, self-discovery

**Author information:** Stephanie Perkins has always worked with books--first as a bookseller, then as a librarian, and now as a novelist. She and her husband live in the mountains of North Carolina. Every room of their house is painted a different color of the rainbow. She usually has blue hair.

**Plot summary:** Anna is looking forward to her senior year in Atlanta, where she has a great job, a loyal best friend, and a crush on the verge of becoming more. Which is why she is less than thrilled about being shipped off to boarding school in Paris - until she meets Etienne St. Clair: perfect, Parisian (and English and American, which makes for a swoon-worthy accent), and utterly irresistible. The only problem is that he's taken, and Anna might be, too, if anything comes of her almost-relationship back home. As winter melts into spring, will a year of romantic near misses end with the French kiss Anna - and readers - have long awaited?

**Booktalk:** “Is it possible for home to be a person and not a place?” Anna is dropped off by her famous author father at a boarding school in Paris for her senior year of high school. Never mind that the only word of French she knows is *oui*, and that she only recently learned how to spell it correctly. Never mind that she has a great life in Atlanta, with a crush and a job and a best friend. But then she meets Etienne St. Clair, a fellow senior who has it all, and falls for him hard. But Anna can’t forget that not only does St. Clair have a girlfriend, but her new friend at school also harbors a crush for this perfect boy. As she tries to navigate the year by ignoring her crush, Anna realizes just why Paris is called the city of love.

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *French*

With your French class, map out Anna’s travels in Paris. Where does she go that you would like to visit? In French, write a guide for Anna to use as she navigates her new city.

### Discussion Questions:

- What do you think it would be like to leave your life behind and have to adjust to a completely new situation, like Anna? Do you think you would be able to adapt as well as she did?
- Do you think the characters behave realistically? Do any make choices you don’t find believable?
- What do you think would be the best part of attending school in another country? The hardest?

- Consider this quote from the book: “I wish for the thing that is best for me.” What do you think about this goal?
- Anna wonders, “Is it possible for home to be a person and not a place?” What do you think?

**If you loved this, you'll like:**

Cohn, Rachel & David Levithan. *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist*. Knopf, 2006.

Green, John. *The Fault in Our Stars*. Dutton, 2012.

Johnson, Maureen. *Suite Scarlett*. Point, 2008. (on this year's GMBA list)

Johnson, Maureen. *13 Little Blue Envelopes*. HarperTeen, 2005.

**Other books by this author:**

*Lola and the Boy Next Door*. Dutton, 2011.

*Isla and the Happily Ever After*. Dutton, 2013.

**Additional resources:**

<http://www.tumblr.com/tagged/anna+and+the+french+kiss>

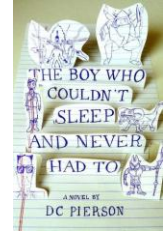
<http://www.stephanieperkins.com/index.html>

American School of Paris - <http://www.asparis.org/>

<http://www.goodreads.com/quizzes/15927-anna-and-the-french-kiss-quiz>

# THE BOY WHO COULDN'T SLEEP AND NEVER HAD TO

by D.C. Pierson



**Genre:** Science fiction

**Themes:** Coming of age, friendships, magical realism, medical abnormalities, scientific research, secrets, superpowers, writing, comic books

**Author information:** DC Pierson is a writer and comedian who was born in Phoenix, Arizona in 1984. He graduated from NYU in 2007 with a degree in writing for television. He is best known for his involvement in the group Derrick Comedy, whose film *Mystery Team* premiered at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. *The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To* is his first novel.

**Plot summary:** Darren, a loner and artist, is thrilled to find a best friend in Eric, a nerdy kid who seems to know everything about everything. Then Eric reveals an exciting secret: he never sleeps. But when Darren tells the secret to the wrong person, the two boys find themselves on the run... and find Eric's sleeplessness might lead to powers far greater than either of them had imagined.

**Booktalk:** What would you do if your friend had a secret? A secret so big and so unbelievable, it changed the entire way you looked at the world? Now... what would you do if you got mad at your friend? Would you keep the secret? This is what happens to Darren in *The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To*, and he learns that some secrets are meant to be kept.

## Curriculum tie-ins:

### Art

Use in conjunction with the creation of a story or world based on drawing or other creative expression.

### English

Compare this to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, drawing connections with society's treatment of medical abnormalities.

### Science

Discuss the ethics of medical research and the implications of using humans as research subjects.

## Discussion questions:

- In the novel, Darren describes a drug called Symnitol, which allows people to stay awake without having to sleep. What would the world be like if this sort of drug was invented? How would society change?
- Darren talks about hating his brother all throughout the book, but it's to him that he tells

Eric's secret. What does this tell you about the relationship between Darren and his brother?

- Darren describes Eric's ability as being like the game Crossfire, which "wasn't as awesome as the commercials made it look." What do you think it would be like to never be able to sleep? Would it be a good thing or a bad thing?

**If you loved this, you'll like:**

Anderson, M. T.. *Feed*. Candlewick, 2004.

Bender, Aimee. *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*. Anchor, 2011.

Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. MTV Books, 1999.

Cormier, Robert. *I Am the Cheese*. Random, 1991.

**Additional resources:**

DC Pierson's website: <http://dcperson.com/>

DC Pierson's Tumblr: <http://dcperson.tumblr.com/>

Superhero Nation: <http://www.superheronation.com/> : Offers advice about how to write, edit, and sell novels and comic books, and provides superhero-specific resources.

TeensHealth: <http://kidshealth.org/teen/> : Offers a variety of health-related resources in Q&A format, including plenty of information on sleep hygiene and sleep deprivation.

## BONESHAKER by Cherie Priest



**Genre:** Science fiction, fantasy, alternative history, horror, steam punk

**Themes:** Family, bravery, strong female lead, class struggle

**Author information:** Cherie Priest is the author of eleven novels, including the steampunk pulp adventures *Dreadnought*, *Clementine*, and *Boneshaker*. *Boneshaker* was nominated for both the Hugo Award and the Nebula Award; it was a PNBA Award winner, and winner of the Locus Award for Best Science Fiction Novel. Cherie also wrote *Fathom* and the *Eden Moore* series from Tor (Macmillan), *Bloodshot* and *Hellbent* for Bantam, and three novellas published by Subterranean Press. In addition to all of the above, she is a newly minted member of the Wild Cards Consortium - and her first foray into George R. R. Martin's superhero universe, *Fort Freak* (for which she wrote the frame story), will debut in 2011. Cherie's short stories and nonfiction articles have appeared in such fine publications as *Weird Tales*, *Subterranean Magazine*, *The Living Dead 2*, and the *Thackeray T. Lambshead Cabinet of Curiosities*. Though she spent most of her life in the southeast, she presently lives in Seattle, Washington, with her husband and a fat black cat. -Wikipedia

**Plot summary:** Sixteen years after the horrible accident that claimed the life of her husband, Leviticus Blue, Briar Wilkes struggles to raise her son Ezekiel. Blue was commissioned to build a machine that could drill through the thick ice of the Klondike to reach veins of gold. But on its inaugural test, something went horribly wrong. The Boneshaker tore a hole through the streets of Seattle and churned up the noxious substance called Blight Gas that turns those who breathe it into the undead. A wall is erected to contain the gas outside and keep those inside safe. When Ezekiel goes beyond the wall, he braves hordes of the undead, armed outcasts and sky pirates to find the truth about his father and the horrible Boneshaker engine, and it is up to Briar to bring him back alive.

**Booktalk:** How far would you go for a loved one? To save them from themselves and the truth? Would you face hordes of zombies, a cloud of poison that could turn you into the undead, dangerous sky pirates and you own past? A mother and son face these questions in the steampunk world of *Boneshaker*.

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *Science*

Does the technology in the story make sense from a theoretical standpoint?

#### *History*

Explore how natural disasters can change historical development

#### *English and Creative Writing*

How far would you go for someone you love?

### Discussion Questions:

- Why was proving his father's innocence so important to Zeke? How does this contrast to Briar's feelings about her own father?
- Based on what you read, what do you think about Leviticus Blue? Was he guilty or innocent?

The following questions are taken from

<http://fsfbcresource.wordpress.com/2011/03/19/boneshaker-by-cherie-preist/>:

- In the first part of the story Briar is constantly thinking about her role and lack of presence as a mother for Zeke. Is she a good mother? What kind of aspects does a good mother require, in general and especially for this time period?
- On page 177, Swakhammer says about Briar's father Maynard: "It's hard to argue with a dead man. A dead man can't change his mind or make new rules, or behave like a bastard so no one will listen to him anymore. A dead man stays a saint." Is Maynard a saint? What is his influence throughout the story?
- How was Priest able to use Seattle's history to benefit the story? What did she stretch and alter to make her story dynamic? The author's note at the end helps answer some of her changes.

### If you loved this, you'll like:

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *The Windup Girl*. Night Shade Books, 2010.

Martin, George R.R. *Fort Freak*. Tor, 2011.

Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan*. Simon Pulse, 2009.

### Other books by this author:

*Dreadnought*. Tor, 2010.

*Clementine*. Subterranean Press, 2011.

*Ganymede*. Tor, 2011.

### Additional resources:

Cherie Priest's Official Website: [www.CheriePriest.com](http://www.CheriePriest.com)

What is Steampunk? <http://www.steampunk.com/what-is-steampunk/>

The Best Alternate History Books and Stories:

[http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/300.Best\\_Alternate\\_History\\_Novels\\_and\\_Stories](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/300.Best_Alternate_History_Novels_and_Stories)

# DIVERGENT

## by Veronica Roth



**Genre:** Dystopian Fiction/Science Fiction

**Themes:** Growth and initiation, coming of age, identity, adversity, courage, violence, virtue

**Author information:** Veronica Roth, born August 19, 1988, hails from Chicago, where her debut novel, *Divergent*, is set. She studied creative writing at Northwestern University, and continues to live and write in Chicago, IL.

**Plot summary:** At sixteen years old, Beatrice Prior, and all of her peers, must choose, and this choice will dictate the rest of their lives. The choice: which of five factions, each based on a specific virtue, will they become a part of? Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), or Erudite (the intelligent)? Beatrice must choose to stay with her family and the world she knows, or abandon all comfort and familiarity to follow her true nature. Her choice brings her into a terrifying and exhilarating world of violence, courage, mayhem, a world where she is constantly tested and always at risk of losing everything. Selfless Beatrice transforms into bold Tris. But Tris has a secret, a dangerous secret that could get her killed, or save society from the corruption bubbling just under the surface. Tris is...DIVERGENT.

**Booktalk:** Covered in grey, quiet, humble, passive, dignified, selfless. This is Beatrice. Covered in tattoos, brash, bold, aggressive, instinctual, brave. This is Tris. Two seemingly incompatible people, trapped in one human being, a human being with a secret. In a world that, on the surface seems organized, calculated, stable, but underneath is filled with tension, fear, corruption and chaos, having a secret makes you a dangerous threat. Who will she choose to be? Will her choice keep her safe, or lead her down a violent path, one that could even kill her?

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *Social Studies*

Imagine you were redesigning society into factions. What five key virtues would you divide people into? What would each virtue be in charge of? Design this society and assign tasks and responsibilities to each group. Design a test to determine a person's aptitude to see how they would fit into society.

In this book, Abnegation (the selfless), are in charge of the government. Explore why selflessness would be considered a virtue in government. How would this affect political decisions? Do you think selflessness is the most important virtue in politics? What other virtues do you feel help someone govern fairly? Create a list of virtues/characteristics that you feel an ideal politician should possess.

#### *English*

Read this story alongside *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Examine how both societies

function: the rules, ceremonies, societal responsibilities. How do these books differ, especially regarding choice? Both societies proclaim these imposed rules are for the benefit of society. Do you agree with this statement?

### *Health*

Develop a list of your own key virtues. Explore how these virtues could translate into your future. What jobs, hobbies, interests would correlate well with your key virtues? Make a poster highlighting your future possibilities.

In this book, not only are people defined by their virtue, but also by their appearance. Each faction has a distinct way of dressing. Using magazines, photos, images, create a collage representing a person from each faction as they appear in the book, and another how you would dress each faction. Discuss why Roth chose to dress each faction this way, and explain your unique interpretation of the factions.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Imagine you are at the Choosing Ceremony. What faction do you choose? Why is this the choice you make?
- Why is it so dangerous that Tris is “Divergent?” Why do others view this as such a threat?
- Several times in the book, we hear “faction before blood.” How does this motto play out in the book? What characters follow this motto most strongly? Are there any characters that ignore this motto?
- In this society, being “factionless” seems to be one of the most terrifying prospects. What do you think it would be like to be factionless? What do you make of the fact that each year, some of the initiates will become factionless?
- How do fear and bravery relate? If you are afraid, does it mean you aren’t brave? Or do you need the presence of fear, and the ability to overcome your fear to be brave?

### **If you loved this, you'll like:**

Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic, 2008. (trilogy)

Condie, Allie. *Matched*. Dutton, 2010.

Dashner, James. *The Maze Runner*. Delacorte, 2009. (trilogy)

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. Bantam Books, 1993.

Oliver, Lauren. *Delirium*. HarperCollins, 2011. (series)

Westerfeld, Scott. *The Uglies*. Simon Pulse, 2011. (series)

### **Other books by this author:**

*Insurgent*. Katherine Tegen, 2012. (sequel to *Divergent*)

### **Additional resources:**

Author’s Blog (includes info on Roth and the series, as well as links to fan sites, author

interviews, FAQs, and much more): <http://veronicarothbooks.blogspot.com/>  
Author's Tumblr Page: <http://theartofnotwriting.tumblr.com/>

*Divergent* Fan Page: <http://www.divergentnation.com/>

*Divergent* Discussion Guide:

<http://files.harpercollins.com/HCChildrens/OMM/Media/Divergent%20DG.pdf>

# GHOSTOPOLIS

## by Doug TenNapel



**Genre:** Adventure, comedy and humor, comic books and graphic novels, fantasy

**Themes:** Ghosts, supernatural, grandparents, illness, loss, redemption

**Author information:** Doug TenNapel is an artist, author, and animator. He has worked extensively in television, movies, and video games as well as writing graphic novels. Doug is best known for creating the character Earthworm Jim, star of a video game, cartoon series, and toy line.

**Plot summary:** When terminally ill Garth is accidentally transported to Ghostopolis, he must learn to use his new power over the dead to find his way home.

**Booktalk:** When yet another Doctor tells Garth Hale that he is dying, the boy thinks his day cannot get any worse. Enter Frank Gallows, an officer from the Supernatural Immigration Task Force, hot on the trail of a skeletal horse. When Frank accidentally sends Garth to the land of the dead, he follows him to Ghostopolis to correct his mistake. With the help of his dead Grandfather, Frank, and a cast of ghostly characters, Garth must learn to use the power of the living in the land of the dead, in order to get back home to his distraught mother.

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *Health/Life Skills*

Grief: Speak about loss and grief, or coping with an illness or tragedy. Develop strategies to help someone get through these hard times.

Interpersonal Skills: Garth's grandfather regrets his harsh words to his daughter, and his daughter cannot let go of the past hurt. Create dialogue that the characters could use to resolve the situation.

### Discussion Questions:

- Garth's mother continues to bring him for further opinions, even though all the Doctors say he is dying. Does this help Garth, or make his illness harder to bear?
- Why does Garth's grandfather continue to age throughout the book?
- Vaugner says that he is no longer a child, but are his actions those of a child or an adult?
- If you lived in a world where you could create anything with your imagination, what would you make?

### If you loved this, you'll like:

Brosgol, Vera. *Anyu's Ghost*. First Second, 2011.

Gaiman, Neil. *Coraline: The Graphic Novel*. HarperCollins, 2008.

Goto, Hiromi. *Half World*. Viking, 2010.

Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival*. Arthur A. Levine, 2007.  
Vaughan, Brian K. *Runaways, Vol. 1*. Marvel, 2006.  
Whedon, Joss. *Fray*. Dark Horse, 2003.

**Other books by this author:**

*Creature Tech*. Top Shelf, 2002.  
*Tommysaurus Rex*. Image Comics, 2004.  
*Earthboy Jacobus*. Image Comics, 2005.  
*Iron West*. Image Comics, 2006.  
*Black Cherry*. Image Comics, 2007.  
*Flink*. Image Comics 2007.  
*Gear*. Image Comics, 2007.  
*Monster Zoo*. Image Comics, 2008.  
*Power Up*. Image Comics, 2009.  
*Bad Island*. Graphix, 2011.  
*Ratfist*. Image Comics, 2012.

**Additional resources:**

Author website: <http://tennapel.com>

Making comics with Doug TenNapel: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIxF06\\_ypHg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIxF06_ypHg)

Making digital comics with Doug TenNapel:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDAUi7Nn3LM>

Making webcomics with Doug TenNapel: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3qYk6Fu6eE>

# THE REPLACEMENT

## by Brenna Yovanoff



**Genre:** Speculative fiction

**Themes:** Acceptance, being different, meaning of family and community, coming of age

**Author information:** Brenna Yovanoff is a quirky, short, and witty person. She was homeschooled until the age of 15, which she admits probably “[affects her] world view in ways [she] can’t fathom.” If that is what gives her writing its otherworldliness, let’s home school more kids! *The Replacement* is her first young adult novel and she is currently working on her second book.

**Plot summary:** A small town has a secret, a very dark secret. Every seven years a child is taken from the town and replaced with a changeling in exchange for the town’s prosperity. The changelings usually die...except one changeling didn’t die. He lived. He grew up. He has a name. Mackie. Mackie knows he is different, just not how different. Until the seven years are up again and Mackie quickly learns just how different he is from his family, from his community. This time he knows the secret and will not pretend it isn’t happening when another child goes missing. And Mackie will be faced with a decision that could change the town, and himself, forever.

**Booktalk:** Have you ever felt different? Like you just don’t fit in? Like you’re an alien and humans are not your race? But then, what if you learned you actually ARE different and you are NOT like everyone else? You’re not even ... HUMAN. What would you do then? Would you hate those who’d hidden the truth from you or would you sacrifice yourself to save one of them?

### Curriculum tie-ins:

#### *English/Language Arts*

Find fairy tales with similar themes.

Compare *The Replacement* to other modern novelizations of fairy tales such as those by Donna Jo Napoli.

#### *Health/Decision Making*

Discuss differences, bullying, acceptance. What are the pros and cons about being different?

### Discussion questions:

- What is the significance of Mackie being a changeling?
- Why is Tate’s character important to the story?
- Did the fairy tale set in a modern day setting work? Why or why not?

**If you loved this, you'll like:**

Hodkin, Michelle. *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer*. S & S, 2011.  
Jackson, Shirley. *The Lottery*. FSG, 2005.  
Ness, Patrick. *The Knife of Never Letting Go*. Candlewick, 2008.  
Oliver, Lauren. *Delirium*. HarperCollins, 2011.

**Other books by this author:**

*The Space Between*. Razorbill, 2011.

**Additional resources:**

Author website: <http://brennayovanoff.com/>

<http://www.readingrants.org/2010/10/25/the-replacement-by-brenna-yovanoff/> - book review  
from a great, alternative review site for teens

# Green Mountain Book Award

## Checklist, 2012-2013

Check the boxes as you read the books. You **MUST** read at least three titles on this list to vote.

- ☐ Bacigalupi, Paolo
- ☐ Donnelly, Jennifer
- ☐ Donoghue, Emma
- ☐ Fisher, Catherine
- ☐ Gray, Keith
- ☐ Johnson, Maureen
- ☐ Katcher, Brian
- ☐ Matson, Morgan
- ☐ North, Ryan, et. al.
- ☐ Perkins, Stephanie
- ☐ Pierson, D.C.
- ☐ Priest, Cherie
- ☐ Roth, Veronica
- ☐ TenNapel, Doug
- ☐ Yovanoff, Brenna

*Ship Breaker*

*Revolution*

*Room*

*Incarceron*

*Ostrich Boys*

*Suite Scarlett*

*Almost Perfect*

*Amy & Roger's Epic Detour*

*Machine of Death*

*Anna and the French Kiss*

*The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To*

*Boneshaker*

*Divergent*

*Ghostopolis*

*The Replacement*